

Latest COVID-19 information and advice for the borough of Bury 10 December, 2020

Vaccine rollout commences

Following extensive trials, the first safe and effective vaccine for COVID-19 has been approved by regulators, and the programme to vaccinate millions of UK residents has begun.

This first stage of roll-out of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine will be managed via a limited number of hospital hubs, including Salford Royal where the first patients in Greater Manchester received vaccinations this week. Read the news story [here](#).

Very soon, local delivery will commence and this will include vaccination centres in Bury. This is being led by local GPs, the NHS and Bury Council's Public Health team.

The vaccines will initially be given to priority groups identified by the JCVI and Government as those who will benefit most – people aged over 80, and residents and staff in care homes. Find out more about who will be offered the vaccination first [here](#).

When it is the right time, people will receive an invitation to come forward. For most this will be a letter (or phone call) from their GP or the national NHS. This letter will include all the information needed to book appointments.

People are urged to not contact the NHS to request an appointment until they receive this letter or phone call.

But we must keep our eyes on the prize...

Pretty much anyone making a wish this festive season will be asking for the same thing - a normal 2021 when we can get back to the things we like doing, and to be close again to the people we love.

It's exciting that the vaccine is here, but it will be some months before we achieve the levels of immunity needed to get back to some kind of normality.

Coronavirus spreads easily, and from person to person - and there's still a lot of it about! It's so important that we keep following the restrictions and sticking to the principles of hands, face and space.

Bury remains in Tier 3 (a review is expected next Wednesday) with restrictions allowing cafes, restaurants and pubs to open only as takeaways, while businesses such as play centres must remain closed. We are not allowed to meet people who are not in our household group either indoors or outside in private gardens, and a maximum of six people can meet outdoors in public spaces such as parks.

Guidance has also been issued on forming a Christmas bubble between three households (23-27 Dec) so that families can get together over the holiday period while still limiting the spread of the virus.

Read more about the current restrictions here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-restriction-tiers-what-you-need-to-know>

COVID-19 case rates flatten

This week, Bury has had the highest coronavirus case rates in Greater Manchester, and the fourth highest in the North West. While surrounding areas had another week-on-week decline, in Bury the figures flattened.

Unlike in recent weeks, when there were steep declines, the flattening of new cases started too early to be caused by the shift from lockdown to Tier 3 measures on December 2.

Rates of new cases were flat or slightly increasing in working age (18-64) and older (age 65 and over) adults, but continued to fall slowly in people aged under 18. The last week brought an increase in the number of cases linked to care homes.

The number of people in hospital with COVID-19 continued to fall, but the number of deaths with COVID-19 on the death certificate remained about the same compared to the week before.

The four-week summary in Bury:

Week ending 5 December: infection rate 225.7 (431 new cases)
Week ending 28 November: infection rate 215.7 (412 new cases)
Week ending 21 November: infection rate 316.8 (605 new cases)
Week ending 14 November: infection rate 466.5 (891 new cases)

Rapid community coronavirus testing

As a Tier 3 locality, Bury has welcomed the opportunity to take part in rapid testing in some community settings.

The approach in Bury and the rest of Greater Manchester is not to offer population-wide testing but targeted testing in key settings where we know the virus spreads more easily such as adult social care settings including supported living and care homes or where there is greater exposure such as high risk occupations and also to support schools. We will be rolling out this programme in the new year.

This new rapid test uses a Lateral Flow Device (they look a little bit like a pregnancy test) to process the result. This is a new type of test that is quick and safe to use. These rapid tests don't need to be processed in a laboratory and results are available in around 30 minutes.

This test aims to identify people who do not have coronavirus symptoms but do have the infection and therefore could pass the virus on to others without knowing it. If an individual receives a positive result having taken the test, even if they don't have symptoms - meaning they are asymptomatic - they must then self-isolate and reduce the risk of passing on the virus. The individual will be recommended to take a second confirmatory test either by attending one of the walk-through or drive-in centres in Bury, or requesting a kit to be delivered to their home - online at [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) or by calling 119.

And speaking of testing...

If you have any of the three most common symptoms of coronavirus - a high temperature, a new continuous cough, or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste - we urge you to get tested, thus protecting yourself and the people around you.

We are committed to making sure that everyone in Bury who needs a test for COVID-19 gets one. Please get tested within the first 3-5 days of symptoms.

Full list of testing options:

- Walk-through testing centres (no appointment needed) at the Mosses Centre and Chesham Fold (open 10am-3pm, Mon-Fri)
- Drive-through testing (by appointment) at Waterfold Business Park
- Department for Health and Social Care testing centres (by appointment):
 - Great Eaves Road test site, Great Eaves Road, Ramsbottom, BLO OPX (open 8am-8pm, Mon-Sun)
 - The former Radcliffe Pool car park, Blackburn Street (open 8am-8pm, Mon-Sun)
 - Whitefield Library, Pinfold Lane, Whitefield (open 8am-8pm, Mon-Sun)
 - The Metro Christian Centre, 13 Parkhills Road (8am-8pm Mon-Sat)
 - Longfield Centre car park (via Rectory Lane), Prestwich (open 8am-8pm, Mon-Sun)
- Tests at regional sites/home test kits are also available.

How to book

With the exception of our walk-through testing centres where no appointment is needed, people requesting a test need to book an appointment in advance. The way you book an appointment varies by location as the testing sites are run in different ways by different providers. You can find all the information you need on booking and testing generally in one place: <https://www.bury.gov.uk/coronavirus-testing> or call 0161 253 5515.

Isolation

Self-isolating in an appropriate and timely way is one of the best lines of defence we have against the spread of coronavirus.

If you're asked to self-isolate, please comply. If you have any of the symptoms of coronavirus, please isolate immediately and get tested. And, once you have had a coronavirus test, please go home and stay there until you receive your result and then act accordingly.

The Bury Community Hubs can help with shopping or collecting prescriptions for those who are self-isolating. Call 0161 253 5353 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm) for information.

Financial support for individuals, including those who are self-isolating

A scheme that offers a one-off £500 payment to those asked to stay at home and self-isolate by NHS Track and Trace is open for applications. Aimed at those on low incomes, a payment will be made to people who cannot work from home and will lose income as a result. Further details and an application form are available at www.bury.gov.uk/isolation-payments

For those experiencing financial difficulty, the Government's website offers help and advice. Find out more here: gov.uk/coronavirus/worker-support

Helping people through the toughest time

As lockdown ends and Tier 3 restrictions apply, there are people who need assistance, both financial and practical. Bury's public, voluntary, community and faith services are here to help.

Support for clinically extremely vulnerable residents continues through the Bury Community Hubs. Bury Council continues to support clinically extremely vulnerable residents, non-shielding vulnerable residents and residents who need to self-isolate. Support can be given with food shopping and collecting prescriptions as well as telephone befriending and support to get online for things like priority supermarket delivery slots.

The Community Hubs are working with partners in mental health, Bury VCFA, Citizen's Advice Bureau, Age UK and Bury Community Support Network which includes access to foodbanks in Bury. We have a network of individual volunteers in every part of Bury who we can 'buddy' you up with for regular chats, support to get online, help to collect your prescriptions and medication, and they can help with

your shopping too.

Call 0161 253 5353 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm) for information or to talk to us about what support you might need.

Unpaid Carers

Are you 18+ and currently helping a loved one, friend or neighbour aged 18+ with day to day tasks?

- Shopping
- Collecting prescriptions
- Checking that they are safe
- Supporting a vulnerable adult

Unpaid carers have been hit especially hard by the pandemic. Many are continuing to provide extraordinary hours of care for loved ones with increasing needs, without the usual help from family and friends and with limited or no support from local services.

The Bury Carers' Hub provides a single point of access for adult carers who are caring for an adult Bury resident. The team will work directly with the individual carer to discuss their concerns and needs and provide information, advice and support.

Contact the **Bury Carers' Hub** for free personalised support:

Telephone: 0300 303 0207 (calls charged at local rate)

Text: 07786 201226

General email: enquiries@burycarershub.org.uk

Website: www.burycarershub.org.uk

Online chat: www.n-compass.org.uk/services/carers-support

Address: FREEPOST Bury Carers' Hub

Mental health support

Coronavirus means that life has changed for all of us for a while, and it's natural that this may cause you to feel worried or anxious, lonely or frustrated. If you feel you need some extra support, Bury's Getting Help Line is a confidential telephone service for people of all ages who are experiencing difficulties with their mental wellbeing.

Run by the voluntary sector, you can access advice, guidance and signposting to local services by calling the Getting Help Line on 0161 464 3679, Monday to Saturday, 8am to 8pm. Find out about other mental wellbeing support at www.bury.gov.uk/mentalwellbeing

Grants for business

The processing and paying out of support grants available to businesses that have been affected most by local restrictions and lockdown continues.

The council's Bury Means Business team is working hard to get £3m worth of Local Restrictions Support Grants and £4m of Additional Restrictions Grants to eligible businesses.

As Additional Restrictions Grant funding is to remain in place until March 2022, we would urge businesses to read the guidance carefully before applying, and thank everyone for their patience as we focus on getting payments out as quickly as possible.

Businesses can check grant eligibility on the council's website at <https://www.bury.gov.uk/covid19grants>

The council's dedicated Bury Means Business team is here to help all businesses with advice and help during the pandemic: go to <https://burymeansbusiness.bury.gov.uk/> for more details.

Bury 2030 – help shape our borough's future

Have your say on our plans for the future of jobs, health, education and the environment over the next decade and beyond.

The Bury 2030 masterplan proposes a new relationship between local communities, commerce, the council and public service providers. Implementing the masterplan will be a key factor in our borough's recovery from the COVID-19 crisis.

To get involved, give your views and to read the full strategy, go to <https://www.onecommunitybury.co.uk/bury-2030>

Next update due Thursday 17 December, 2020.

Find up-to-date information at [bury.gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.bury.gov.uk/coronavirus)

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